

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling access to a computer network, comprising the steps of:

upon connection of a user to a data communication network, making
5 available on the network an age identifier which is suitable to define the age of said user who wishes to make the connection;

entering, on the part of said user, an address of a site of interest which the user intends to visit, said address being automatically associated with said age identifier made available on the network; and

10 allowing said user to perform connection to the network on the basis of the reading of said age identifier associated with said address keyed in by said user, and steering accordingly the network navigation of said user.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of making said user age identifier available on the network comprises verification of the
15 data of the user who wishes to make the connection and comparison of said data with a database which contains the profiles of users registered with a service provider suitable to provide said connection.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of making said user age identifier available on the network furthermore comprises the
20 transmission to said user of said age identifier retrieved from the user profile found in said database.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of making said user identifier available on the network comprises the step of:

entering said age identifier directly in the network navigation program
25 used by the user to connect to said data communication network.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said connection to the data communication network allowed on the basis of the reading of said age identifier leads to unrestricted network navigation if said age identifier reveals an adult user or to a controlled network navigation if said age
30 identifier reveals a minor user.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said age identifier is associated with said address keyed in by said user directly by a network navigation program used by the user on his computer.

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